

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 050489

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 1403 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DTD 1 MAR 75
QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 1403

PASS LABOR FOR SEGALL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO AORG, PLO IS

SUBJ: PLO OBSERVER STATUS AT ILO

REF: STATE 043864

1. SO COMMITTEE COMPLETED CONSIDERATION OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS
PARTICIPATION (INCLUDING PLO) PAPER (GB 195/SC/3/2) ON FRIDAY FEB 28.

2. PRINCIPAL USG AND AFL/CIO STRATEGY IN COMMITTEE WAS TO GET
COMMITTEE AGREEMENT THAT ITS JOB PURELY TECHNICAL, WITHIN TERMS
OF REFERENCE SET BY NOV. GB AND THAT IT (COMMITTEE) IS NOT THE
PROPER FORUM FOR DISCUSSION ANY POLITICAL ISSUES OR TO RECOMMEND
ANY PARTICULAR ACTION TO THE GB. IF DIVISIVE POLITICAL DEBATE COULD
BE PREVENTED FROM SURFACING IN THE COMMITTEE, THERE STILL MIGHT
BE SOME CHANCE OF QUIETLY ACHIEVING POSTPONEMENT BY THE GB UNTIL
MAY SESSION. (WHICH OF COURSE WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE IF PASSIONS WERE
AROUSED IN COMMITTEE).

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3. FIRST AGREEMENT REACHED IN COMMITTEE (INITIATED BY EMPLOYERS

SPOKESMAN AND SUPPORTER BY WORKER SPOKESMAN AND USG) WAS THAT COMMITTEE WAS DOING A TECHNICAL CHORE; THAT IT SHOULD NOT RAISE OR DISCUSS POLITICAL ISSUES WHICH ARE IN THE PROVINCE OF THE GB; AND THAT IT SHOULD NOT RECOMMEND ANY COURSE OF ACTION TO THE GB.

4. SECOND AGREEMENT REACHED WAS TO CONSIDER NO RPT NO CHANGES IN THE PRESENT STANDING ORDERS OF THE GOVERNING BODY OR OF INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEES. THUS THE GB WILL HAVE BEFORE IT THE TEXTS OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDING ORDERS OF ONLY THE ILO CONFERENCE AND REGIONAL CONFERENCES. IN BOTH CASES AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDING ORDERS CAN TAKE EFFECT ONLY UPON CONSIDERATION OF AND APPROVAL BY THE ANNUAL ILO CONFERENCE.

5. WORKER SPOKESMAN RAISED QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE AS TO WHETHER IT IS APPROPRIATE TO AMEND STANDING ORDERS, WHICH ARE EXPRESSION OF GENERAL RULES, IN A WAY WHICH DEALT WITH, AND GAVE A PRIVILEGED STATUS TO, ONLY ONE REGION OF THE WORLD.

6. HE THEREFORE PROPOSED THE DELETION OF THE WORDS "RECOGNIZED BY THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY OF THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES" FROM THE OFFICE TEXT OF AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS OF THE CONFERENCE APPEARING IN PARAGRAPH TWELVE AT THE TOP OF PAGE FOUR OF DOCUMENT GB 195/SC/3/2.

7. TWO ADDITIONAL PROPOSALS WERE MADE BY THE MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE. THESE WERE TO INSERT IN THE TEXT AT THE TOP OF PAGE FOUR IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE REFERENCE TO THE OAU OR LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES (WHICH WOULD BE RETAINED) EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING TWO FORMULATIONS: (1) "OR ANY OTHER NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT RECOGNIZED BY AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL REGIONAL ORGANIZATION" OR (2) BY THE WORDS "OR ANY OTHER LIBERATION MOVEMENT HAVING OBTAINED THE STATUS OF AN OBSERVER BY ACTION OF THE GA OF THE UN".

8. NO COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OR VOTE AMONG THESE ALTERNATIVES WAS UNDERTAKEN, IT BEING AGREED THAT THIS WOULD GO BEYOND THE TERMS OF REFERENCE WHICH THE GB DECISION OF NOVEMBER HAD SET FOR THE STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE'S WORK ON THIS ISSUE. HENCE, THE COMMITTEE
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REPORT WILL INCLUDE ALL FOUR FORMULATIONS WITH OUT RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GB. COMMENT: THIS WILL HELP CONFUSE THE SITUATION IN THE GB. END COMMENT.

9. THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE IS STILL BEING DRAFTED AND WILL BE REVIEWED BY THE OFFICERS OF THE COMMITTEE AND MADE AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND DEPUTY MEMBERS ON MONDAY MARCH 3 FOR COMMENT BEFORE FOUR P.M.

10. USDEL PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT COMMITTEE REPORT NOT RPT NOT BE PHRASED IN TERMS OF RECOMMENDATION FOR GB ACTION, BUT MAKE SURE THE REPORT MAKES CLEAR THAT COMMITTEE PERFORMED ONLY AS TECHNICAL TASK WITHOUT REFERENCE TO POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS WHICH ARE BUSINESS OF GB AND NOT OF THE COMMITTEE.

1. USDEL HAS CONSULTED WITH UK, FRG, CANADIAN, ITALIAN AND JAPANESE DELEGATIONS ABOUT POSSIBILITY THEIR SUPPORTING POSTPONEMENT IN GB. THOSE CONSULTATIONS NOT ENCOURAGING UNTIL LATER INFORMED BY UK ON FEB 28 THEY HAD RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO SUPPORT POSTPONEMENT. WE UNDERSTAND FRG WILL FOLLOW SUIT AND USDEL PLANS FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH ITALIAN DELEGATION AND WITH FRENCH DELEGATION (PARODI NOW IN GENEVA) BEFORE FURTHER MEETING OF EUROPEAN NINE ON MONDAY WHERE, WE UNDERSTAND, POSSIBLE COMMON POSITION OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE FURTHER CONSIDERED.

12. SEIDMAN AND BROWN WORKING ON WORKER GB MEMBERS AND USDEL WILL FURTHER ENCOURAGE STEINER (US EMPLOYER SUBSTITUTE MEMBER) TO BOLSTER SENTIMENT IN EMPLOYER GROUP FOR POSTPONEMENT.

13. COMMENT: STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE ACTION (SEE PARA 4 ABOVE) MAKES VERY UNLIKELY ANY FINAL ILO GRANT OF OBSERVER STATUS TO PLO BEFORE JUNE 1975 ILO CONFERENCE. WHILE RAISING OF QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE BY WORKER SPOKESMAN (SEE PARA 5 ABOVE) MADE SITUATION IN COMMITTEE DICEY VIS-A-VIS POLITICAL ISSUES, DISCUSSION WAS LOW-KEY AND UNPROVOCATIVE. IN VIEW OF USDEL THIS COMPLICATES POSSIBILITY OF POSTPONEMENT, BUT LACK OF EMOTION AND PROVOCATION LEAVES THAT POSSIBILITY STILL ALIVE. DALE UNQUOTE
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